



UNITED KINGDOM

1. Teachers' International Professional Development programme (TIPD) – The Teachers' International Professional Development (TIPD) Program became a key area of activity for the British Council USA with a pilot programme in October 2000. Due to the variety of educational excellence and innovative practices and approaches to education, the United States provides a rich research environment for all of the targeted themes for the TIPD programme.

Following the success of the first year of the TIPD programme, the number of teachers placed in the United States continues to increase and from October 2001 to April 2002 the Council placed 33 groups (330 teachers) with more groups planned for Fall 2002 into 2003. The 62 groups placed have covered 14 thematic areas. Key themes for groups have included thinking skills, gifted and talented, teaching and learning and inclusion. In addition, literacy, productive use of IT, boys underachievement, raising standards, school leadership and performance management have also been popular themes. In 2002/03 new key themes have been introduced such as vocational education and alternative teaching, key stage 3, and creativity. Adding to the success of the programme has been the willingness of the UK/U.S. schools to maintain their links and to build relationships that are self-sustaining.

2. Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange – There are currently 66 UK Fulbright teachers in the United State on the yearlong exchange programme. These teachers are in 31 states with the majority in California (14) and Indiana (5).

The British Council USA is involved in the orientation programme both for UK teachers arriving in the US and for U.S. teachers travelling to the UK. The Council provides the UK teachers with access to a full range of information/promotional material on the UK. The Council also encourages them – by providing a range of special grants – to development innovative and creative projects within their schools.

3. Education Policy/Best Practice Exchange – The British Council USA, in collaboration with the British Embassy, reports new and interesting education developments in the United States to key UK contacts, including the DfES and the Departments of Education of the devolved administrations.

U.S. Education Update started in June 2000 and now in its 14th edition, is a joint production of the British Council USA and the Embassy and provides key UK contacts with information on issues of U.S. education policy and good practice.

As a result of the success of the U.S. Update, the British Council USA has developed a *UK Education Update*, which reports on UK education policy, reform and best practice and is distributed to key U.S. policy makers and practitioners. The first issue of the UK Update was issued in February 2002.

4. Higher/Further Education Policy Exchange – The British Council USA is involved in joint projects with U.S. and UK policy leaders in a variety of higher education themes.

- Policy Dialogue on Lifelong Learning – As part of a collaborative effort between further and higher education leaders in the United States and the United Kingdom, the British Council USA facilitated the establishment of a UK/U.S. Policy Forum to discuss key issues surrounding lifelong learning. The British Council in London hosted the first forum in November 2000 with senior officials from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and the British Council USA.

The second policy forum took place in February 2002 (having been postponed following September 11) and focused on Workforce Development and Work-based Learning including:

- U.S. & UK Policy for workforce development (WFD)/work-based learning (WBL)
- Funding for WFD/WBL including industry view and input to funding
- Credit recognition and portability.

5. Scholarships and Fellowships

- Atlantic Fellowships – The Atlantic Fellowships in Public Policy were founded in 1995 and are sponsored and funded by the FCO, with the British Council handling administration. The Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for outstanding mid-career professionals to gain experience in a wide variety of public policy areas in the UK, thereby fostering the cross-fertilisation of ideas between the UK and the United States.

Previous Fellows hail from a variety of organisations including federal and state agencies, trade organisations, academic and civil society organisations and cover a wide range of public policy including education and training, local government, community development and workplace and employment issues. Alumni have expressed the importance of the programme to both their personal and professional development.

In October 2001, more than 50 U.S. public policy experts, including speakers from the UK, EU and United States attended the Atlantic Conference, which was funded, in part, by the FCO. This successful event brought together selected alumni from the Atlantic Fellowship and the Marshall Scholarship programmes as well as other exchange programmes. Under the theme of *The Citizen and The State in an Era of Global Change* the conference examined various themes from a British, a European, and an American perspective, including: the democratic deficit; migration; human rights; and national identity.

- Marshall Scholarships – The Marshall Scholarships were founded by an Act of Parliament in 1953 to commemorate the ideals of the Marshall Plan. They are funded by the FCO and allow young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. Up to forty scholarships are awarded each year, usually at graduate level, in any field of study. The scheme enables the Scholars, who are the potential leaders, opinion-formers and decision-makers in their own country, to gain an understanding and appreciation of British values and the British way of life. It also establishes lifelong ties that enhance the special relationship that exists between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The British Council in Washington administers the Marshall Scholarship programme in the United States on behalf of the Political Section of the British Embassy in Washington and acts as secretariat for the Washington DC regional selection committee and the Ambassador's Advisory Council.

The British Council USA now acts as secretariat the Alumni Association. The programme has a thriving alumni group of over one thousand members including prominent politicians, authors, academics and journalists. Alumni members are involved in the planning that is currently underway to celebrate next year's 50th anniversary of the Marshall Scholarships programme.

6. Education Promotion/Web-based Developments – Every year over 35,000 U.S. students study at universities in UK. The British Council USA works closely with study abroad advisors at universities and high school counselors to provide information on study opportunities in the UK. We have an advisory service and an extensive website with information on how to find a program, how to apply, how to fund study, etc.

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